

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 17-31 are allowed.

Claims 1-4 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U. S. Patent Number 6,584,329 to Wendelrup et al. in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,131,017 to Lebby et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,600,910 to Danet et al.

Claims 5, 7-10, 12, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U. S. Patent Number 6,584,329 to Wendelrup et al. in view of well-known prior art (MPEP 2144.03).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 6 and 13 were previously cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-16 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer for the filing of a subsequent continuation application. Allowed claims 17-31 are presently pending.

All Pending Claims Are Allowable

The rejection of claims 1-4, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U. S. Patent Number 6,584,329 to Wendelrup et al., in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,131,017 to Lebby et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,600,910 to Danet et al. is now moot since claims 1-4 and 32 have been cancelled by way of the foregoing amendment. Further, the rejection of claims 5, 7-10, 12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable by U. S. Patent Number 6,584,329 to Wendelrup et al. in view of well-known prior art (MPEP 2144.03) is now also moot

since claims 5, 7-10, 12 and 14-16 have been cancelled by way of the foregoing amendment.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance since only allowed claims 17-31 are pending.

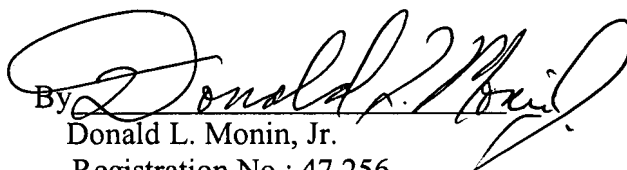
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-1351. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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